

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 4, 2000

## REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 2000-08

To: County Refugee Coordinators

Please be advised that the next Refugee Coordinators meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2000  
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Location: California Department of Social Services Training Center  
815 S Street, Eureka Room  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Note Limited free parking is available in the rear of the building on a "first-come, first served" basis.

For your convenience, a copy of the draft minutes for the last meeting are enclosed for your review. Also enclosed is a map with directions to the Sacramento International Airport, courtesy of the Yahoo! Internet site.

If you have any suggestions for the agenda of the upcoming April meeting, please address, e-mail or fax them to:

Mr. Roger Caron  
California Department of Social Services  
Refugee Programs Branch  
744 P Street, MS 6-646  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: (916) 654-7487  
rcaron@dss.ca.gov

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Caron at (916) 654-1376

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Barton'.

Robert A. Barton, Chief  
Refuge Programs Branch

Enclosure

# COUNTY COORDINATORS MEETING ATTENDEES

February 17, 1999

The meeting was held at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Training Center in Sacramento, and was called to order by Bob Barton. Attendees included:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Bob Barton	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1115
Janet Sandlin	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1246
Phyllis Iwasaki	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-2387
Richton Yee	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-2805
Linda Keene	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-2602
Steve Saucedo	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-5594
Roger Caron	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1376
Daniel Crawford	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-5964
Bonnie Brady	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1461
Alexandria Arredondo	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-3108
Jay Nelson	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-0703
Ophelia Girard-Farrell	State DSS/RPB	(916) 653-8950
Brad Elftmann	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-7250
Betts Smith	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-0495
Monica Rani	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1246
Thuan Nguyen	State DSS/OCR	(916) 654-1343
Valinda Ala'Chappelle	State DSS/DOB	(916) 322-9816
Linda Nissen	State DSS/CCLD	(916) 229-4279
Lynda Bardis	State DSS/OSB	(916) 654-6636
Steve Kugel	State DSS/OSB	(916) 327-9810
Alice Chan	State DHS/RHP	(916) 327-1033
John Tran	Alameda County	(510) 728-7838
Janet Tompkins	Contra Costa County	(510) 412-3237
Josie Marquez	Los Angeles County CSS	(213) 738-3986
Leonilla Strelkoff	Los Angeles County CSS	(213) 738-2587
Dolores Mejia	Orange County	(714) 541-7874
Long Thai Nguyen	Sacramento SETA	(916) 263-3852
Kim Chi Trieu	Santa Clara County	(408) 441-5659
Michelle Malecki	Santa Clara County	(408) 441-5590
Gerlinde Topzand	San Diego County	(619) 338-2878
Karen Hart	San Francisco PIC	(415) 431-8700
An Tran	San Joaquin County	(209) 468-2061
Nancy Schou	Yolo County	(530) 669-2300
Sergey Terebkov	Yolo County	(916) 375-6319
Yuliya Balabanova	Yolo County	(916) 375-6255
John Morton	Merced County	(209) 385-3000
Pao Ly	Fresno County	(559) 453-6092

Bob opened the meeting with an introduction of Monica Rani, the Branch's college intern, to the coordinators.

### **Federal Update/Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Regulations (Bob Barton)**

Bob mentioned that, unfortunately, there was still little to report about the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) proposed regulations on the RCA program, other than that they were **still** in the process of being finalized. He relayed that ORR now predicts that the final regulations will be issued in late March or early April 2000.

### **Refugee Planning Symposium 2000 (Phyllis Iwasaki/Ophelia Girard-Farrell)**

Phyllis and Ophelia gave an overview of the purpose, the invitation criteria, the logistics and the various scheduling requirements of the RPB's Planning Symposium, to be held in San Diego on March 21 and 22 at the Hotel Bahia. They also provided a preview of speakers, presentations, and topics that attendees would address in the course of the two-day symposium.

Bob emphasized the need to limit participation as well as for balance in representation at the Symposium. Representatives of different cultures, organizations and programs were encouraged to attend, within the limitations of the capacity of 80 invitees. He reiterated his request for suggestions and ideas from the attendees for the Symposium agenda. He reviewed the experience of last year's planning retreat in Fresno, and the positive results which emanated from that retreat, including a customer satisfaction survey whose results will be released soon and which will be emulated in 2000.

### **RPB Website Update (Alexandria Arredondo)**

Alex distributed and reviewed the latest activity report for the RPB's Internet site, including statistics on visitation and analysis of patterns of usage. She summarized upcoming changes in the site's design, emphasizing such additions as success stories, photo images, expanded links and pages devoted to all refugee-impacted counties.

### **Targeted Assistance (TA) Discretionary Grant Application Process (Brad Elftmann)**

Brad distributed ORR's recent announcement and instructions for the FFY 200 TA Discretionary Grant process. He reviewed the difficulties and confusion that had accompanied last year's experience, assuring that the new approach would be a more streamlined enhancement to the competitive nature of the process, with the main feature being each county submitting a single application. He mentioned the formation of a team within RPB to review and coordinate all applications.

### **Services Participation and Outcomes Report (RS 50) Revision Work Group (Brad Elftmann)**

Brad announced that a workgroup consisting of representatives of each of RPB's Bureaus and county volunteers would get together after the Coordinators meeting to begin work on revising the RS 50 process.

### **Office of Community Relations (OCR) Activities (Thuan Nguyen)**

Thuan provided updates on the following activities which OCR is planning for the current year:

- ❖ California Refugee Awareness Month in May;
- ❖ Southern California Women's Leadership Conference scheduled for late May at California State University, Long Beach; and
- ❖ The Eleventh Annual Refugee Information Exchange Conference (RIEC) scheduled for late August in the San Francisco Bay area.

### **Statewide RCA Review (Valinda Ala'Chappelle)**

Valinda of the CDSS Data Operations Branch provided a summary of the most recent RCA review. Overall, Valinda highlighted the following:

- ❖ Generally better results than the year before;
- ❖ Only Sacramento's and Alameda's performance did not show improvement from last year, with Contra Costa also experiencing some problems; and

- ❖ The balance of the counties mostly performing very well.

She stated that next review commences in March, covering January 2000 cases.

### **Refugee Health Issues (Alice Chan)**

Alice filled in for Laura Hardcastle of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Refugee Health Programs to provide information on their office's activities, including:

- ❖ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) project to commence in three areas (Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco);
- ❖ Health Assessment Program in four pilot counties (Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco and Alameda); and
- ❖ Medical Interpreter Training, a \$4 million project contracted with a private company which will provide training at no cost to three counties (Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Merced).

### **Refugee Child Care Outreach (Linda Nissen)**

Linda, representing CDSS' Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), provided an overview and handouts on CCLD' activities in:

- ❖ Innovations in Child Care, an overall survey on resources, requirements and services available in the field;
- ❖ The Childcare Advocacy Program, which provides information on the licensing of community care facilities; and
- ❖ A free training program at University of California, Davis for prospective childcare providers within refugee communities.

### **Disabled Refugees Services Programs (Lynda Bardis)**

Lynda of the CDSS Office of Services to the Blind made a presentation on services and programs available to refugees with disabilities. She speculated that these are services that many refugees might not be aware of due to language and cultural

factors. She and Bob both stressed the need for people within the refugee programs to disseminate information through intake, VOLAGs, MAAs, forums and other avenues. Lynda made her office available for any information requests, and mentioned an informational booklet on services her office is compiling in several languages and in different media.

### **County Comments/Roundtable (County Refugee Coordinators)**

The customary roundtable discussion followed wherein refugee coordinators provided status reports on activities within their counties' Refugee Services programs.

### **Closing Remarks/Announcements (Bob Barton)**

Bob wrapped up the meeting by providing updates on

- ❖ ORR's estimates of approximately 90,000 arrivals of refugees in the current FFY, of which approximately 20,000 are expected to be from Cuba;
- ❖ ORR's projected figures for the funding of the RESS and TA programs, which break down as follows:
  - RESS is expected to be funded at around \$120 million nationally, which represents about a \$20 million decrease from last year for the nation and \$3 to 4 million less for California.
  - TA is expected to be funded at around \$47 million nationally, about \$3 million less than last year. Discretionary funds will account for about 10% of that figure, with California's share around one-third of this \$4.7 million or about \$1.6 million total.
- ❖ The next Coordinators meeting, which is scheduled in the same location is on April 20, 2000.